

REMARKS

Applicant has made changes as instructed by the Examiner in paragraph one of the Detailed Action, adding the term "schematic" to refer to components 29 and 37 in paragraphs 20 and 21 of the specification. Applicant hereby requests that the proposed drawing corrections submitted with the Response filed on 10/9/03 now be approved.

Since Applicant expects the Examiner to approve the previously submitted drawing change proposal, the objections stated in paragraph 2 of the Detailed Action are no longer applicable.

Applicant has complied with the Examiners instructions regarding cancellation of new matter in paragraphs 20 and 21 of the specification, and so believes that the objections under 35 U.S.C. 132 are cured.

Claims 1, 14, and 18 are amended to remove language objected to by the Examiner, and to recite that the restraints control module is operative to receive inputs from at least one of a pre-crash sensor and a crash sensor, and to command the belt guides to move in response to said inputs. This system architecture is described in paragraph 35 of the specification and is depicted in Figure 1.

The recitation of the functioning of the belt guides in response to signals from a restraints control module distinguishes the present invention from the prior art references cited by the Examiner, all of which are directed toward seat belt presenters that do not move in response to events detected by a crash or pre-crash sensor. Kohlndorfer et al includes a seat belt pretensioner 160 that operates in the event of a crash by pulling on the buckle 26 in the conventionally known manner. The functioning of the pretensioner is completely independent from the presenter, and the reference does not teach or suggest movement of a belt guide in reaction to a crash.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable. Accordingly, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance in all respects, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below. Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,

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